

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OIC-02 EB-07 IGA-02 IO-11

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OIC:JGARNER (SUB)

AID/NE:GLAUDATO

EUR/SE:HKIRBY(SUBS)

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O R 260049Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045775

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO, IR

SUBJECT: CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING: IRANIAN MOVE TO
BLOCK EARLY APPOINTMENT OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR

REF : A. STATE 33758; B. ANKARA 1458

1. AT FEB 9-11 MEETING IN ANKARA OF CENTO ECONOMIC STEERING
GROUP (EXPANDED), IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVE (ABDULLAH RAZI)
OBJECTED TO OR STONEWALLED (ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS) NEARLY
ALL THE CONSTRUCTIVE IF MODEST INITIATIVES PROPOSED IN
CENTO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES. AMONG PROPOSALS AFFECTED WAS
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"RESOLUTION A" APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING AND FINANCING

PRIORITY ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF CENTO.
(RESOLUTION A WAS APPROVED BY 1973 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AND HAS BEEN BASIS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSENSUS ACHIEVED AT 1975 ECONOMIC MEETING, FOR RECOMMENDATIONS BY BRITISH AND U.S. CONSULTANTS IN PAST YEAR.) AT IRAN'S REQUEST, QUESTIONS OF CENTO PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMING CAPABILITIES HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO CENTO SUBCOMMITTEES OR TO CENTO BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATIVE OR REORGANIZATION COMMITTEES FOR FURTHER STUDY. IRAN'S OBJECTION TO RESOLUTION A MAY BE BASED ON KNOWLEDGE THAT TURKEY AND PAKISTAN REGARD RESOLUTION A AS A VEHICLE FOR OBTAINING SUBSTANTIAL NEW CAPITAL ASSISTANCE WHICH IRAN CLEARLY IS UNWILLING TO PROVIDE THROUGH CENTO.

2. PERHAPS UNRELATED TO THE ABOVE, IRAN'S LACK OF RESPONSE TO REQUEST THAT CENTO MODEST SURPLUS FUNDS BE CREDITED TO TURKISH EARTHQUAKE RELIEF HAS DELAYED THE ORGANIZATION'S DONATION (SEE REF A).

3. IRANIAN ACTION IN STEERING GROUP OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO U.S. WAS DELEGATE'S INSISTENCE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTO SECRETARIAT SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR POSITION MUST FIRST BE RECOMMENDED BY REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE (IT WILL HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE IN ANY CASE). THIS U.S. OFFER OF AN EXPERT, IN A SECTOR WHICH ALL DELEGATES AGREED WAS A PRIORITY ONE FOR THE REGIONALS, WAS WELCOMED AT THAT TIME BY ALL THE MEMBERS.

4. WE HAVE RECENTLY FOUND AID AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR WITH PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN PAKISTAN AND TURKEY WHO IS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL QUALIFIED TO FILL SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR POSITION. IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBILITY OF LOSING THIS OFFICER AND ALSO BECAUSE OF U.S. INTEREST IN MAKING ANNOUNCEMENT ON ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICER DURING MARCH 16-18 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING IN WASHINGTON, WE ARE TROUBLED BY IRAN'S INSISTENCE ON DEFERRAL OF DECISION TO CREATE NEW SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR POSITION UNTIL PROPOSAL SHALL HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE (IRANIAN DELEGATE INDICATED HE WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTION
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FROM TEHRAN). DECISION TO ESTABLISH THE NEW POSITION IN THE SECRETARIAT WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (I.E., DECISION WITHOUT OBJECTION BY ANY MEMBER COUNTRY), WITHDRAWAL OF THE IRANIAN OBJECTION WOULD ALLOW US TO PREDICT THAT COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL (WE WOULD FIRST SOUND OUT THE OTHER MEMBERS), AND OUR ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENDED ASSIGNMENT OF AID OFFICER COULD STILL BE MADE DURING THE MARCH ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

MEETING. IRANIAN DELEGATE SUGGESTED USG MIGHT WISH TO ASSIGN ADVISOR AS AID OFFICER ON EMBASSY ANKARA STAFF BUT THIS APPROACH IS NOT ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION FROM POINT OF VIEW OF EMBASSY STAFFING SITUATION OR FROM POINT OF VIEW OF OUR INTEREST IN BUILDING PROFESSIONAL CENTO SECRETARIAT STAFF. SIMILAR ISSUE ARISES IN CONNECTION WITH BRITISH-SUPPLIED SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR WHOSE POSITION WILL NOT CONTINUE TO BE FILLED BY UK UNLESS CENTO APPROVES CREATION OF POSITION IN CENTO SECRETARIAT. IRANIAN DELEGATE INSISTED THAT THIS SHIFT MUST, LIKEWISE, BE CONSIDERED BY REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE, IN ADDITION TO THE BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

5. FOR TEHRAN: PLEASE PROVIDE SOONEST YOUR ASSESSMENT OF BASIS FOR IRANIAN ACTIONS OBSTRUCTING MODEST IMPROVE-

MENTS IN CENTO'S ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES. WE ARE AWARE OF IRAN'S CONCERN LEST NEW INITIATIVES INCREASE PRESSURES FROM PAKISTAN AND TURKEY FOR IRANIAN ECONOMIC AID VIA CENTO, BUT IRANIANS KNOW THAT NEITHER BRITISH NOR WE ARE DISPOSED TO SUPPORT MAJOR NEW PROJECT ASSISTANCE. IN FACT, THE INITIATIVES WE FAVOR ARE DESIGNED TO ENABLE CENTO--WITHOUT A QUANTUM JUMP IN ITS RESOURCES--BETTER TO SERVICE SOME OF THE REGIONALS' PRIORITY ECONOMIC NEEDS. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY VIEWS ON WHETHER GOI CAN BE PERSUADED TO CONCUR IN CREATION OF SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR POSITION IN SECRETARIAT IN TIME TO ALLOW AGREEMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASSIGNMENT OF AID OFFICER DURING MARCH 16-18 MEETING. ALTHOUGH WE PREFER THAT EMBASSY NOT NOW DISCUSS WITH GOI OTHER CONCERNS NOTED IN PARA 1 ABOVE, IT MAY BE NECESSARY AND USEFUL FOR YOU TO PURSUE AT FAIRLY SENIOR LEVEL THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OF AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR POSITION, CONFIDENTIAL

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IN ORDER TO DETERMINE STRENGTH OF GOI'S APPARENT DISPOSITION TO BLOCK OUR EARLY FULFILLMENT OF THIS PRIOR COMMITMENT TO CENTO.

6. FOR ANKARA: APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS/RECOMMENDATIONS AFTER RECEIPT OF TEHRAN'S REPORT AND YOUR CONSULTING CRAWFORD.

7. SECRETARY GENERAL BAYULKEN ARRIVES WASHINGTON FEB 29 FOR SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH SENIOR USG OFFICIALS. DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME EMBASSIES' COMMENTS IN ADVANCE OF BAYULKEN'S MARCH 1-5 MEETINGS HERE. KISSINGER

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